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DEPARTMENT OF RED CROSS NURSING

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REVISED PRICES ON EQUIPMENT

IT may interest the nurses to know that with the reduction of equipment of the Nurses' Bureau in New York there has been a revision of prices in order that the stock might be disposed of. Prices have been revised on articles on the list of equipment for Public Health Nurses as follows: White beach cloth blouses, each, \$2.75; winter ulsters, sizes 16 to 38, \$27.00; winter ulsters, sizes 40 to 46, \$41.25; reversible cloth and leather coats, \$60.50. For Divisional Directors, Assistant Directors, Traveling Instructors, and Field Supervisors: Regulation blue Norfolk suits are, sizes 16 to 38, \$37.00; sizes 40 to 46, \$44.00.

In August, notice was received from Mrs. Maud G. Moody, Manager of the Bureau of Nurses' Equipment, that there was on hand a surplus stock of suits and coats which were being sold out to the Visiting Nurses' Associations for \$35 and \$25, respectively. The reason the prices quoted on the price lists for Red Cross nurses are \$2.00 over on each of these garments in the sizes above mentioned is that the Red Cross buttons and brassards make the additional amount.

This information has already been sent out to all Divisional Directors in the American Red Cross, but is published herewith for wider circulation.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE'S DOLL LOANED TO RED CROSS MUSEUM
THROUGH the generosity of H. Maude Randall, class of 1909, Homeopathic Hospital, Albany, N. Y., a doll which once belonged to Florence Nightingale has been loaned for an indefinite period to the American Red Cross museum. Unfortunately the complete history of this doll has not been made available to Miss Randall, but it is known that originally there were two such dolls, one of which was given by the man who made them to Queen Victoria and the other to Florence Nightingale. The latter, still dressed as Miss Nightingale had it, was raffled off in June, 1918, at a benefit given for a British Army Hospital in Portsmouth, England. Miss Randall was the lucky winner. The doll is gaudily dressed in scarlet satin trimmed in gold braid, the costume conforming to the style worn by the Turkish women in the Crimea.

A TRIBUTE FROM OUR ITALIAN GUESTS

IN a graceful letter of appreciation addressed to the Director of the American Red Cross Nursing Service, which they ask be extended by her to all Red Cross Chapters who contributed to their

entertainment, the three Italian gentlewomen who recently finished a survey of American nursing institutions and hospitals as guests of the Red Cross, summarize most interestingly their impressions of the tour.

Of the three comprising the group, Contessa Balzani was particularly interested in the organization of public health and other nursing committees; the Marchesa Firmaturi, in the baby welfare work; and Signorina Caterino Bosio, "in every form of nursing, and of the district nursing in particular." "The morning I spent in the North End Center, Boston, with a supervisor, following her in the distribution of work to the nurses in her office and clerical work,—then visiting with her in the homes of some of the patients,—has given me many valuable suggestions for the district work in our town," is the encomium she pronounces upon this phase of the science of nursing.

New York thrilled the visitors with its "wide point of view" and the variety and vastness of its problems. They deplored the tendency of the Italian immigrants to herd together in our great centers of population and expressed a deep sense of gratitude for "the intense sympathetic work that is done by competent nurses in the Italian settlements," not only in New York, but wherever congested living conditions have created the tenement house problem.

The organization of the Chicago Visiting Nurses' Association excited their admiration. "The practical, simple system acquired through long experience was made clear to us," declares the letter above referred to. "Many lessons were given to us for the work that is started in our own country."

"In Cleveland," the letter continues, "we saw the Welfare Federation through which all charities and welfare associations work as a whole. The University Center of District Nursing, the Municipal Hospital and the Sanatorium for Tuberculosis where we found an atmosphere of hopefulness, with the patients passing their days in the open air."

In addition to the nursing and hospital activities of Pittsburgh, the great steel mills and the Irene Kauffmann Settlement were included in the itinerary of the travellers.

Washington's great navy and military hospitals and the national headquarters of the Red Cross were objects of the keenest enjoyment to the group and opportunity was also given them to inspect the Soldiers' Home and visit the model Dairy Farm there, where pure milk is produced under the most hygienic conditions from a herd of some of the finest cows in the country.

"We went to Baltimore expressly to visit the Johns Hopkins Training School, that school of much tradition and dignity of which

we met many graduates during our tour," the letter goes on. "We also visited the Evergreen Home for the Blind Soldiers, conducted by the American Red Cross, in which work of much interest is being done."

In Philadelphia the party was taken to the Children's Court as well as to the points of interest included in the original itinerary.

"The existing friendship between America and Italy has been strongly cemented by this trip," is the concluding comment. "Our views on nursing have been greatly broadened. We hope that we ourselves may prove that the hospitality so generously extended by the American Red Cross to us has sown the seed of improvement in the welfare work in our country and of the more general widespread sympathy of the Italians in Italy for this great country of the United States."

MISS ALICE FITZGERALD IN AMERICA

MISS ALICE FITZGERALD, Director of the Division of Nursing, League of Red Cross Societies, who arrived in New York September 29th, for an indefinite leave of absence, is finding much that is admirable and inspiring in the Red Cross peace programme. "This is my first visit to America for four and one-half years," says Miss Fitzgerald, "and I am profoundly impressed by the peace programme the Red Cross is carrying on. I was aware, through the Bulletins and other reports from National Headquarters, of the great work the Red Cross is doing for the Ex-Service men and in the field of public health, but when I came into personal contact with this service, at the National Convention in Columbus, and at Wilkes-Barre, my eyes were opened to the real extent and significance of this mighty undertaking and my reaction has been one of admiration and pride.

"While I was in Wilkes-Barre, where I was formerly superintendent of nurses in the City Hospital, the annual meeting of the Wyoming Valley Chapter, A. R. C., was being held, and I was given the opportunity of a "close-up" view of what the Red Cross teaching programme means among the foreign-born and in rural sections.

"Mrs. J. P. Williamson, a Red Cross nurse, has been in charge of the instruction in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick in Wilkes-Barre and the outlying districts, and her work is a remarkable record of achievement. She is now within 18 of a total enrollment in these classes of 1,000. It was my privilege to accompany her on her rounds to three classes in three different rural settlements. These classes were made up of hard working country women, many of whom had had to bring their babies in order to attend at all. Yet they were so intensely interested and enthusiastic that they had even persuaded their husbands to put up with cold lunches, prepared beforehand, on

the days that they took their class instruction. Each woman had provided herself with a text book and the answers were enthusiastically and intelligently given.

"I carried away with me a most gratifying impression of what this instruction means in the lives and future well being of the community. Because of their preparation in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick one thousand women will go back into their isolated homes fitted as never before to cope with the problems arising in their own families and communities.

"Another piece of work that impressed me as of inestimable value was a class in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick for a group of foreign-born midwives. Mrs. Williamson assured me that she had found them most responsive, after their first alarm, (when they believed an effort was being made to prevent them from practising), had disappeared before the knowledge of the true purpose of the class. 'They realize now,' Mrs. Williamson explained, 'that the Red Cross Course is not interfering with their occupation, but helping to make them more fit, and therefore more valuable, in carrying it on.'"

After an official visit to National Red Cross Headquarters at Washington, Miss Fitzgerald visited Baltimore and in November returned to New York City, where she addressed the members of the American Public Health Association on the occasion of their semi-centennial meeting.

ITEMS

CABLED advices from Paris Headquarters, A. R. C., Commission to Europe, state that no more nurses will be needed for the present at least in Europe, the present personnel being sufficient to carry out the present Red Cross programme.

MISS DOUGLAS LEAVES NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

MISS Harriette Sheldon Douglas, who has been attached to National Headquarters since 1917, has resigned her position and leaves the first of December. A graduate of the Roosevelt Hospital, New York City, Miss Douglas volunteered in Red Cross service in December, 1917. On January 1, 1918, she was appointed Director of the Bureau of Nurses' Aides, which position she held until July of that year, when she succeeded Helen Scott Hay as Director of the Bureau of Elementary Hygiene and Home Care of the Sick. On March 1st, 1921, with the reclassification of the various departments, Miss Douglas' title became Director of Instruction in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick, her duties remaining the same as previously.

Mrs. Isabelle Wilbur Baker, of Worcester, Mass., who succeeds Miss Douglas, is a graduate of the Rhode Island Hospital Training School, Providence, Rhode Island. She has had a varied and successful experience both in Schools of Nursing as director and more recently as nurse in charge of one of the largest teaching centers of the American Red Cross in the New England Division, in which division she has been Director of Instruction in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick since January, 1920.